Southern ODDITIES By CLINT BONNER

THE REASON FOR BUILDING SUCH NARROW STREETS IN THE "FRENCH QUARTER" AT NEW ORLEANS (SOME ARE ONLY 18 FT. WIDE) WAS THAT HOUSES ON ONE SIDE WOULD SHADE HOUSES ON THE OTHER!
WOW-WHAT A MAN!
PETER FRANCISCO, VIRGINIA'S PORTUGAL-BORN "STRONGEST SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR," ONCE THREW A MAN OVER A FENCE AND TOSSED THE GENTLEMAN'S HORSE OVER AFTER HIM!
—PETER IS THE SAME WEANLING WHO SHOULDERED A 1,000-LB. CANNON AND MARCHED OFF WITH IT ON A N.C. BATTLEFIELD.
6-MONTHS-OLD CLARA ELIZABETH BROWN —BIRMINGHAM, IS THE OLDEST DAUGHTER OF THE OLDEST DAUGHTER OF THE OLDEST DAUGHTER OF THE OLDEST DAUGHTER.
THOSE NOBLE BENEFACTORS OF MANKIND SUCH AS
TWO ALABAMIANS AND A VIRGINIAN
HAVE SAVED MORE LIVES THAN THE HERODS AND HITLERS HAVE DESTROYED!
TENNESSEE IS CALLED "THE VOLUNTEER STATE" BECAUSE WHEN 2,800 VOLUNTEERS WERE CALLED FOR DURING THE MEXICAN WAR, 30,000 INSTANTLY RESPONDED!
OPEN AIR POST-OFFICE —THE ONLY ONE IN AMERICA WHERE ALL BUSINESS IS TRANSACTED IN THE OPEN. —ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.
GEORGIA'S JAMES STEWART INVENTED THE REVOLVING CANNON.
1840's
2-1-42 Clint Bonner

DO YOU KNOW ANY ODDITIES IN YOUR COMMUNITY—THE AUTHOR WILL APPRECIATE YOUR SUGGESTIONS. SEND IN CARE THIS PAPER.

Pneumonia, tuberculosis, cancer and heart disease—hardly an individual living today has not been affected directly or indirectly by these dreaded maladies. On the other hand, yellow fever (once the most deadly of all diseases) offers little alarm for us today. Yet, had it not been for three Southerners perhaps you and I would be here—perhaps we would not.

Gravity of that statement may be seen in using figures from Alabama alone (other states suffered as heavily or heavier) and centering on the one city of Mobile. Two years after Mobile was founded in 1702 the city was all but wiped out by yellow fever. Within those months, in 1819, a siege killed 274 citizens. Ten years later 100 died. In 1837, 350 deaths were recorded and two years later 450 more. Of 1,550 cases in 1843, 750 were fatal. In a nation-wide epidemic 10 years later 8,000 of Mobile's 25,000 population fled in panic. The previous year the city of Selma lost 52 of its citizens to yellow fever. In 1873 Montgomery chalked up 108 deaths to the disease. Five years later 51 died in Decatur; 50 at Florence, and 31 at Tuscumbia, with most other cities in proportion. In 1897 "Yellow Jack" took its all-time high toll in a nation-wide epidemic.

In Mobile Josiah Nott, an unknown teacher and practitioner of medicine, heartbreakingly buried four of his own children who had been struck down by the fever. The physician devoted the remainder of his life to the dogged study of "Yellow Jack." He was the first to advance the theory that yellow fever was carried by the mosquito. Nearly 20 years after Dr. Nott died, in 1875, Virginia's Dr. Walter Reed proved the correctness of Nott's theory. As health officer of Havana, Alabama's William C. Gorgas put the findings to practical application. Within 90 days fever-infested Havana was free of the disease. With the dawn of the 20th Century yellow fever with its black history became almost a thing of the past.

Josiah Nott died an unknown, Walter Reed passed away murmuring that his life had been a failure and he regretted leaving so little to his widow. His monument perpetuates the memory of the brilliant career of William C. Gorgas.

In the words of the noted Southern columnist, John Temple Graves: "Hosts of hoping they have found a rich reward in Heaven for their great services to mankind, since mankind shows willing to have Heaven pay the debt."